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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
ROUTING SLIP

TO:

		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X		
2	DDCI		X		
3	EXDIR		X		
4	D/ICS				
5	DDI		X		
6	DDA				
7	DDO		X		
8	DDS&T				
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/Pers				
14	D/OLL				
15	D/PAO				
16	SA/IA				
17	AO/DCI				
18	C/IPD/OIS				
19	C/LA/DDO		X		
20	C/PPS/DDO		X		
21	NIO/LA		X		
22					
SUSPENSE					
			Date		

Remarks FYI.

Executive Secretary

[Signature] 25 Sep 84

Date

3637 (10-81)

**United States
Information
Agency**

Washington, D.C. 20547

Office of the Director

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Executive Registry

84- 9271

September 24, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable
William J. Casey
Director
Central Intelligence Agency

FROM: Charles Z. Wick
Director

SUBJECT: VOA Agreements with Costa Rica

You will be pleased to know that an agreement signed on August 31 allows VOA to operate a medium-wave relay station in Costa Rica which will reach as far as Managua, Nicaragua. The agreement with the Costa Rican Association for Information and Culture, a private entity, was worked out at the suggestion of President Monge. A portion of the VOA payment to the Association will support production of local programming to be broadcast over the VOA transmitter on a shared-time basis. It is an agreement that not only serves the needs of VOA but also responds to Costa Rican concerns which President Monge twice detailed in letters to President Reagan. The agreement is for five years, but four renewal options given the VOA permit extension to a total of twenty-five years.

This arrangement follows some two years of discussions. In November, 1982, President Monge wrote to President Reagan to ask for help in constructing broadcast facilities in northern Costa Rica which could compete with the very strong signals arriving from Nicaragua and so "return to Costa Rica the control over its airwaves that has been undermined by the unusual increase in the power and size of the Nicaraguan government's broadcasting system."

President Monge's letter arrived as VOA was embarking upon a worldwide modernization with particular emphasis on Central America and the Caribbean. In March of 1983 President Reagan answered President Monge's letter and proposed sending a survey team to Costa Rica to determine the country's needs. The team went to San Jose in July and the current agreement is the product of one year's additional effort.

The station will be operational at the end of this year or early next year thanks to the loan of a DoD transportable 50 KW temporary transmitter. Construction of the permanent 100 KW transmitter (with an appropriate antenna) is expected to take from one to two years.

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Classified by: CZ Wick
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The Costa Rica agreement is unusual, even unique, in having been made with an association of private citizens rather than with the Government. This arrangement was recommended by President Monge as a way to provide frequencies for use by a foreign broadcaster (VOA) within the framework of Costa Rican law. At the signing ceremony at his residence on August 31, President Monge thanked President Reagan for responding to the Costa Rican request for assistance and said that the arrangement permits Costa Rica to reclaim its "broadcasting sovereignty." As for ourselves, we are delighted with this new forward step in expanding the clarity and reach of America's message.

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